APPENDIX XX.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 581, asked by Srimathi Hemalatha Devi at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 15th December 1961, page 1009 supra].

Under section 62 of the Madras Public Health Act, the following are the notified infectious diseases :—

(a) Cerebro-spinal fever ;
(b) Chickenpox ;
(c) Cholera ;
(d) Diphtheria ;
(e) Leprosy ;
(f) Measles ;
(g) Plague ;
(h) Rabies ;
(i) Scarlet fever ;
(j) Smallpox ;
(k) Typhus ;
(l) Enteric fever ;
(m) Poliomylitis ;
(n) Yellow fever ;
(o) Tuberculosis ;
(p) Infective hepatitis ;
(q) Whooping cough ;
(r) Epidemic encephalitis.

The measures adopted for the prevention and control of the diseases are as follow :—

(a) Cerebro-spinal fever—

Cases of this disease rarely occur. However, preventive measures such as disinfection and isolation of cases and their hospitalisation for treatment on recognised lines are adopted.

(b) Chickenpox—

Measures as for smallpox are usually taken. Although vaccination will not prevent chickenpox, vaccinations are usually done as a measure of abundant precaution to safeguard against any possible errors in diagnosis. Disinfection of the infected materials and premises, careful collection and destruction of all scabs, etc., are also done as in the case of smallpox.

(c) Cholera—

The measures usually adopted for the prevention and control of cholera are—

(i) Mass immunization by anti-cholera inoculations, and treatment of cases and isolation wherever possible.

(ii) Disinfection of patient's discharges, houses and materials.

(iii) Chlorination of water sources.

(d) Diphtheria—

Mass immunisation of children against diphtheria with triple vaccine as the infection occurs mostly among children of younger ages though advanced ages are not entirely free.

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(*e*) Leprosy—

Cases of leprosy are detected during their visits by the Public Health Staff and the patients are advised to take institutional treatment in the nearest hospitals, clinics and primary health centres.

(*f*) Measles—

Though it is not prevalent frequently in epidemic form, measures as for smallpox are carried out.

(*g*) Plague—

Anti-plague measures like anti-plague inoculations, insufflation of rat-burrows and DDT spraying of the premises are undertaken.

(*h*) Rabies—

As this diesase occurs by the bite of rabid dogs, destruction of stray dogs and other animals affected with rabies are carried out. Antirabic inoculations of human beings are done whenever indicated.

(*i*) Scarlet fever—

This does not occur in this country.

(*j*) Smallpox—

In the case of smallpox the measures adopted are :—

(i) Mass vaccination and revaccination campaigns by the employment of additional staff and treatment of all cases and isolation wherever feasible.

(ii) Disinfection of infected houses and materials with particular attention being paid to scabs falling out from the patients. These scabs carry the causative organisms.

(*k*) Typhus—

There is no prevalence of typhus.

(*l*) Enteric fever—

The measures taken are as follows :—

(1) Chlorination of water sources.

(2) Environmental sanitation of the areas is kept at a high level.

(3) Anti-fly measures and removal of rubbish heaps and nightsoil.

(4) TAB inoculations are conducted.

(5) Isolation of cases and disinfection of infected houses and materials are carried out.

(6) Disinfection of motions and urine of patients are specially attended to.

(*m*) Poliomylitis—

The measures taken are as follows :

(1) Isolation of the patient for 3 weeks and segregation of contacts are done ;

(2) Water sources are chlorinated and public are advised to take boiled water ;

(3) Children should not be permitted to bathe in streams, lakes or swimming pools ;

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(*m*) Poliomylitis—*cont.*

The measures taken are as follows—*cont.*

(4) Overcrowded places like cinemas and bazaars should be avoided particularly by children ;

(5) Extreme fatigue should be avoided;

(6) Sudden chilling as from a plunge into cold water on a very hot day should be avoided ;

(7) Cinema halls and theatres should be thoroughly disinfected in between shows.

(*n*) Yellow fever—

As this is not prevalent, no measures are adopted in this country.

(*o*) Tuberculosis—

B.C.G. vaccination is done on a mass scale to prevent tuberculosis. Tuberculosis cases are advised to take institutional treatment at the hospitals, sanatoria and clinics. Domicillary treatment is also encouraged.

(*p*) Infective hepatitis—

The preventive measures against the spread of this infection involve all the common measures associated with the control of common intestinal pathogens, viz., prevention of faecal contamination of food, water, milk, supplies and fomites. Fly-breeding control and proper collection and disposal of night-soil rubbish, and other organic wastes by 5 per cent DDT emulsion spray are undertaken. This disease occurs predominantly in childhood and young adults.

(*q*) Whooping cough—

As this disease also occurs among children, immunization with triple vaccine is the method of control.

(*r*) Epidemic encephalitis—

Prevention and control measures are instituted as in the case of any other water-borne and food borne diseases and also in the case of insect borne diseases and treatment as per signs and symptoms is given in hospitals.